

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-identified continuation application prior to examination.

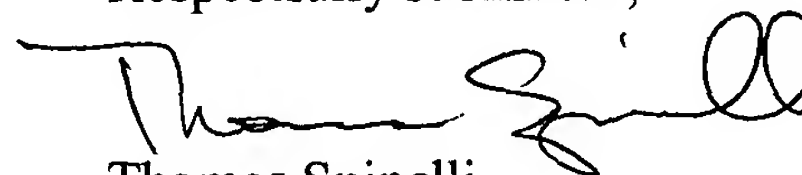
Claims 1-16 have been cancelled and claims 17-28 added by way of the present amendment. Claims 17-28 are fully supported in the original disclosure. Therefore, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the addition of claims 17-28.

Initially, the specification has been amended to correct an error in the "Brief Description of the Drawings" section. Figures 4A and 4B and 11A and 11B were inadvertently described as being Figures 4 and 11. Thus, the same were amended to be consistent with the drawings which illustrate Figures 4A, 4B, 11A, and 11B. Additionally, the Abstract has been deleted and replaced with a substitute Abstract that does not exceed 150 words.

Additionally, as the current application is a continuation of Application No. 09/727,876, any objections to the specification made by the Examiner during the prosecution of the parent application have been corrected in the current continuation application. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the present amendment.

In view of the above, early and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Spinelli

Registration No.: 39,533

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

TS:AVS:jf